

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education

Week of Jan. 18 - 22, 2010

(Yellow highlighted text is hot-linked to source.)

In the House –

During the week, a bill to restructure the state's office for information technology, [H.4375](#), the Chief Information Officer Restructuring Act, was introduced and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Also introduced and sent to Judiciary was [H.4386](#), which would limit individuals elected or appointed to college and university boards of trustees to no more than three four-year terms. [H.4385](#), relating to the composition and selection of the USC Board of Trustees, was introduced and referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee. [H.4087](#), relating to the Greenville Technical College Commission, had been received from the Senate after being amended and awaited further consideration of the House.

Ways and Means budget subcommittees continued to meet. During the week, the Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Resources heard from Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, The Citadel, and Coastal Carolina University. Members of the Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Resources budget subcommittee include Representatives Limehouse (chair), Barfield, Merrill, and Neilson.

In the Senate –

[S.1066](#) relating to the SC Manufacturers' Extension Partnership (SCMEP) and the establishment of a tax credit for funds contributed for SCMEP to the South Carolina Existing Manufacturers' Retention and Growth Fund was introduced and referred to Senate Finance. Also introduced and referred to Senate Finance was [S.1080](#), a bill to repeal current sales tax exemptions afforded schools and higher education for textbooks and other printed publications for academic studies or for use in libraries, and [H.4299](#), relating to flexibility for K-12, which had been received from the House. Additionally, [S.1085](#) and [S.1086](#) which would provide for amendments to the state code and constitution with regard to provisions for the state's General Reserve Fund were introduced and referred to Finance and Judiciary, respectively. The changes under consideration would increase the required reserve and would shorten the timeframe for action of the Budget and Control Board and General Assembly in the event of reduced revenue estimates. [S.1089](#), a Concurrent Resolution to set the election of members of college and university boards of trustees to be held in a joint session on April 28, was referred to the Invitations Committee for consideration.

Other bills considered during the week of interest for higher education included [S.517](#), a Joint Resolution relating to state agencies and implementation of fee increases, which was amended and awaited further consideration before being sent to the House, and [H.4087](#), a bill relating to the Greenville Technical College Area Commission, which was amended and returned to the House.

Budget News –

The Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on January 20. The BEA did not make any changes to the revenue estimates and will meet next on February 11 at which time it is expected that the BEA will adopt its estimates for FY 2010-11. The FY 2010-11 estimates must be adopted by February 15.

Other –

The Governor gave his annual State of the State address in a joint assembly on Wednesday evening. For a copy of his address, [Click Here](#).

*** Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page and the link goes to the most recent version of the bill.*

Reminder: The above report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education, see CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/LegislativeSession09.htm>. Detailed information on the 2010 Session of the General Assembly may be access at www.scstatehouse.gov or from links included on CHE's website.